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LETTER DATED 19 NOVEMBER 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF FINLAND TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement on the presidential elections in Tajikistan issued on 16 November 1999 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Marjatta RASI
Permanent Representative of Finland
to the United Nations

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Annex

[Original: English and French]

Statement on the presidential elections in Tajikistan issued on 16 November 1999 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union

The European Union is deeply concerned about the undemocratic events and procedures in connection with the presidential elections in Tajikistan. It considers that the election is not compatible with democratic principles and values. The European Union does not see any progress in the democratic development of Tajikistan if basic rules of civil society are not respected but are even violated.

The European Union urges, in particular, the Government of Tajikistan to adopt and implement democratic procedures and rules for the upcoming parliamentary elections to ensure that the elections are fully free and fair. It is in the interest of the Tajik people that the necessary conditions are created for all political forces of the country to participate, on an equal basis, in preparing and conducting the forthcoming parliamentary elections according to the principles of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

The European Union strongly supports the peace process in Tajikistan and links the future development of contractual relations between the European Union and Tajikistan to it. Only the normalization of society can enable Tajikistan to implement international commitments. Moreover, the peace process alone can ensure that the security situation continues to improve and so facilitate the provision of international assistance.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated countries Cyprus and Malta, and the European Free Trade Association countries, Iceland and Liechtenstein, members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with the present statement.